

TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP - WEDNESDAY EVENING - MARCH 21, 2012

PRESENT: Marshall (arrived at 8:08 o'clock PM), Barboza, Teixeira, Herreshoff, and Parella (arrived at 7:17 o'clock PM)

Also Present: Diane C. Mederos, Town Administrator
Julie Goucher, Town Treasurer

The Council met in workshop session on Wednesday evening, March 21, 2012 in the Town Hall, Council Chambers, beginning at 7:12 o'clock PM, Council Vice-chairman Barboza presiding:

801 - Human Services

Edward Carusi, Director

Mr. Carusi reported on the BVFD Emergency Dialer Program since he manages same. He explained that the manufacturer has discontinued the dialer unit distributed previously by the Program and has replaced this unit with a more expensive one.

Mr. Carusi further reported that the previous units cost was \$40-50 and that the new units cost \$75 each and must be purchased in groups of 40 units.

Mr. Carusi explained that he attempted to get the towns of Barrington and Warren to join with Bristol in a group purchase and that Barrington agreed to do so and Warren did not. He added that he is seeking grants to offset the cost and has approached the Rhode Island Foundation and also Roger Williams University.

Councilman Herreshoff asked to know how many units are needed at this time with Mr. Carusi responding that he was not certain as to the exact amount needed.

Councilwoman Parella arrived at this point in the meeting (7:17 o'clock PM).

Councilman Barboza noted that the Council may be able to provide some funds from the Council Contingency account for this purpose.

Mr. Carusi reported that although the Town does not expect subscribers to pay for the dialer units, some subscribers contribute \$10-100 to offset the cost of the program.

Councilman Barboza commented that Mr. Carusi is "doing a great job" managing the dialer system.

Councilman Teixeira noted that Mr. Carusi operates his Human Services office in the Benjamin Church Senior Center. He asked to know Mr. Carusi's hours of operation with Mr. Carusi responding that he works 20 hours per week.

The Council made no changes to this budget as recommended by the Town Administrator.

805 - Human Resources

VNA of RI

There was no representative from this agency present.

The Council made no changes to this line item as recommended by the Town Administrator.

East Bay ARC of RI

Genevieve Rodrigues, Representative
Carol Rodrigues, Representative

Genevieve Rodrigues of Echo Farm Drive, a representative of the group, thanked the Council for providing funding. She informed the Council that the funds will be used to offset insurance costs for the group's van.

Carol Rodrigues, also representing the group, thanked the Council for its support.

The Council made no changes to this line item as recommended by the Town Administrator.

Women's Resource Center

There was no representative from this agency present.

The Council, by consensus, agreed to place an asterisk (*) at this line item in order to consider the matter further prior to the finalizing of the budget.

East Bay Center

Robert Crossley, President

Robert Crossley explained that his agency serves 346 Bristol residents and provides 2700 units of service for these residents and that this service is valued at \$309,000. He added that insurance payments and fees collected for this amount totals \$239,000 leaving \$70,000 uncollected.

Councilman Barboza noted that the East Bay Center receives the largest grant among those in the Human Resources program.

Councilman Herreshoff stated that he hears good reports about the work of the East Bay Center.

Councilwoman Parella asked to know if the 346 served is greater or less than the number of persons served last year with Mr. Crossley responding that he was unsure of this statistic.

Councilman Teixeira asked to know if those under-insured clients of the East Bay Center are charged fees on a sliding scale. Mr. Crossley responded that these clients are charged on a sliding scale based upon Federal poverty guidelines.

The Council made no changes to this line item as recommended by the Town Administrator.

East Bay Community Action Program

Dennis Roy, Chief Executive Officer

Mr. Roy thanked the Council for its past support. He informed the Council that Edward Carusi, the Town's Director of Human Services, is on the East Bay Community Action Program Board of Directors.

A discussion ensued regarding some of the programs under the sponsorship of the East Bay Community Action Program.

The Council made no changes to this line item as recommended by the Town Administrator.

Benjamin Church Manor Tenants Association

The Council, by consensus, agreed to increase the amount allocated to this agency to \$650 (a \$50 increase over the Town Administrator's recommendation).

Visiting Nurse Services

Susan Jacobsen, Director of Programs

Ms. Jacobsen reported that her agency serves 536 residents of Bristol; most of these frail elderly. She explained that the agency charges fees on a sliding scale and that no one is turned away due to inability to pay. She added that her agency is seeing an increase in hardship cases and that she appreciates level funding.

Councilman Teixeira asked to know if the agency has facilities in Bristol with Ms. Jacobsen reporting that the clients are seen in the field.

Councilwoman Parella asked to know if the agency must receive a physician's referral prior to providing care with Ms. Jacobsen responding that a medical referral is needed.

The Council made no changes to this line item as recommended by the Town Administrator.

Bristol Senior Citizens Chorus

The Council made no changes to this line item as recommended by the Town Administrator.

Bristol Mustangs

The Council made no changes to this line item as recommended by the Town Administrator.

King Philip Little League

Mark DeFelice, President
Jim Gervais, Representative

The representatives reported that the Little League has 350 participating children and that the Council's grant has been used to purchase and/or recondition safety helmets.

The Council was invited to attend opening day on April 28, 2012.

The Council made no changes to this line item as recommended by the Town Administrator.

Franklin Court Tenants Association

Maria C. Dutra, Representative

Ms. Dutra reported that the association provides accessible recreational activities for the Franklin Court tenants.

The Council made no changes to this line item as recommended by the Town Administrator.

Bristol Wrestling

The Council agreed, by consensus, to appropriate \$1 as a "place holder."

Bristol Senior Citizens Council

The Council made no changes to this line item as recommended by the Town Administrator.

Narragansett Council, Boy Scouts of America

Jonathan Widmark, Senior Development Director

Mr. Widmark informed the Council that he was "thrilled" to be recommended for level funding. He added that the Scouts have been in Bristol for 102 years and that he notices an increase in enrollments.

Mr. Widmark also stated that Bristol is an ideal location for Sea Scouts and that the initiative needs qualified Scout leaders.

The Council made no changes to this line item as recommended by the Town Administrator.

Mosaico CDC

Diana B. Campbell, Executive Director

Ms. Campbell reported that Mosaico is in its 20th year and that it serves the low-moderate income population.

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Councilman Teixeira noted that he has a conflict of interest with this organization since he is a member of the Board. He recused himself from the discussion and any pending votes concerning Mosaico.

Council Chairman Marshall arrived at this point in the meeting (8:08 o'clock PM) and assumed the gavel.

Ms. Campbell reviewed the Mosaico program and explained that 96% of those who were in the mentoring program have finished high school.

Ms. Campbell stated that her agency is requesting \$6500 and is also applying for CDBG funding for workforce development assistance. She also reported that Mosaico continues to help citizens with preparing resumes.

The Council made no changes to this line item as recommended by the Town Administrator.

Bristol Merchants Association

Linda C. Arruda, Representative

A discussion ensued regarding a new website, etc.

Town Administrator Mederos reported that there is \$5000 in the Director of Community Development's budget for this initiative. Ms. Arruda stated that she was not familiar with the "bottom line" cost for this initiative.

Councilman Teixeira reported that the Economic Development Commission plans to address the Council concerning this matter.

The Council made no changes to this line item as recommended by the Town Administrator.

Girls Softball

There was no representative present. Denise Asciola reported that the agency did not make a request this year.

The Council made no changes to this line item as recommended by the Town Administrator.

Bristol Youth Soccer Association

The Council made no changes to this line item as recommended by the Town Administrator.

Arts Festival

There was no representative present.

The Council made no changes to this line item as recommended by the Town Administrator.

Banda Filarmonica

There was no representative present.

The Council made no changes to this line item as recommended by the Town Administrator.

Harbor Lights

Councilman Barboza noted that he has a conflict of interest and recused himself from the discussion and vote.

There was no representative present.

The Council made no changes to this line item as recommended by the Town Administrator.

Cornerstone Adult Services

Gerry Manning, Representative

A discussion ensued regarding the program. Ms. Manning noted that the use of this service is on the increase.

The Council made no changes to this line item as recommended by the Town Administrator.

The Samaritans of RI

Denise Panichas, Executive Director

Ms. Panichas informed the Council that the Samaritans organization is in its 35th year of service to the Community. She outlined the agency's program and a new art gallery initiative.

The Council made no changes to this line item as recommended by the Town Administrator.

Bristol Historical and Preservation Society

The Council made no changes to this line item as recommended by the Town Administrator.

Coggeshall Farm Museum

Several representatives were present (no names were provided for the record).

The representatives reviewed their program and thanked the Council for its past support.

The Council, by consensus, agreed to place an asterisk (*) at this line item in order to consider the matter further prior to the finalizing of the budget.

Literacy Volunteers

There were no representatives present.

The Council, by consensus, agreed to provide \$1 to this line item as a place holder for the future year's budget.

Portuguese School

There were no representatives present.

The Council made no changes to this line item as recommended by the Town Administrator.

BVFD Emergency Dialer Program

It is hereby noted for the record that discussion and action regarding this line item took place at the commencement of this evening's meeting as found above.

Save Bristol Harbor

Stephan Brigidi, Representative

Mr. Brigidi provided a brief report on the agency's activities and informed the Council that Save Bristol

Harbor continues to focus on the restoration of Silver Creek and water quality monitoring.

Mr. Brigidi reported that Save Bristol Harbor is working on obtaining grant funding and requested that the Council might consider providing the agency with funds granted to other agencies and "not picked up."

The Council, by consensus, agreed to place an asterisk (*) at this line item so as to consider it later in the budget process.

Art Night

Stephan Brigidi, Representative

Mr. Brigidi explained that Art Night is a new initiative to focus on the galleries of Bristol and Warren and to promote same. Mr. Brigidi reported that the budget for promoting this program is \$23,000 and that he is seeking \$2,500 in support from the Council.

The Council, by consensus, agreed to place an asterisk (*) at this line item so as to consider it later in the budget process.

Meals on Wheels of RI

Erin O'Gara, Representative

Ms. O'Gara explained that the agency serves approximately 80 residents in Bristol and has been operating its program since 1969.

The Council made no changes to this line item as recommended by the Town Administrator.

East Bay Food Pantry

Anita Randall, Executive Director

Ms. Randall reported that the food pantry has experienced a growth of 77% since its opening and that it serves 1200 families in the East Bay.

Ms. Randall asked for a grant of \$1000 and informed the Council that her agency spends \$1000 per week on food and also that the pantry provides fresh produce on Fridays.

The Council, by consensus, agreed to place an asterisk (*) at this line item so as to consider it later in the budget process.

Bristol Art Museum

Patricia Woods, Chairman

Ms. Woods thanked the Council for its earlier contributions and reminded the Council that the Bristol Art Museum is seeking to convert the historic barn at Linden Place to a permanent home. She added that the Museum is supported by an all-volunteer group and that it has been part of Bristol for 50 years.

Ms. Woods stated that these funds would be placed toward a handicapped entrance to the building from Wardwell Street and also that Council members were welcome to tour the facility.

The Council, by consensus, agreed to place an asterisk (*) at this line item so as to consider it later in the budget process.

There being no further business, upon a motion by Councilman Barboza, seconded by Councilman Herreshoff and voted unanimously, the Chairman declared this workshop to be adjourned at 10:20 o'clock PM.

Louis P. Cirillo, CMC, Council Clerk